

REMARKS

Favorable consideration and allowance are respectfully requested for claims 2-7 and 8-18.

Applicants have amended claims 7 and 14 – 16 to correct the informalities noted by the Examiner thereby rendering these objections moot. Reconsideration and withdrawal of these objections are therefore respectfully requested. Claims 1, 8 and 19 have been cancelled.

Claim 2 is amended to incorporate the limitations of previously pending claim 8. Claim 9 is amended to make it independent and to include the limitations of the prior version of claim 2. Claim 10 is similarly amended. Claim 6 is amended to make it dependent from claim 9 rather than claim 2. Claims 11-13 and 15 are amended to provide proper grammar and syntax, and, in the case of claim 15, make changes conforming to claim 14.

The Examiner is thanked for the careful review and consideration of this case and the notice that claims 8-10 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form is acknowledged with appreciation. As amended all of the claims include the limitations of one of previously pending claims 8-10. Accordingly, all of the presently pending claims are believed to be in allowable form and prompt favorable action thereon is earnestly solicited.

Claims 1, 2, 6, 11, 12, 18, and 19 are rejected under § 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over Rohde et al. (3,771,921). Claims 3 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Rohde et al. (3,771,921) in view of Affeldt et al. (5,088,463). Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Rohde et al. (3,771,921) in view of Affeldt et al. (5,088,463) as applied to claim 3 above, and further in view of Yoshiume et al. (5,785,025). Claims 7, 14 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Rohde et al. (3,771,921) in view of Tachibana (6,192,678) is respectfully traversed. The rejection of claim 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Rohde et al. (3,771,921) in view of Kinugasa et al. (5,979,157). Claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Rohde et al. (3,771,921) in view of Tachibana (6,192,678) as applied to claim 14 above, and further in view of Takeshima et al. (5,233,830). Claim 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Rohde et al. (3,771,921), in view of Takeshima et al. (5,331,809).

All of these rejections are respectfully traversed. As implicitly pointed out by the indication that claims 8-10 were allowable in the prior office action, none of the cited references teach all of the elements of previously pending claims 8-10. Because all of the presently-pending claims include the limitations of at least one of claims 8-10, all of the claims are believed to be allowable over the cited references. Reconsideration and withdrawal of all of these rejections are respectfully requested.

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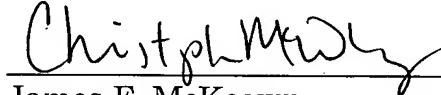
CONCLUSION

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

Although a Petition for Extension of Time is submitted herewith, if necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a Petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #056207.53169US).

Respectfully submitted,

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